



## **TOWN COUNCIL CREATES NEW VETERANS COMMITTEE**

### ***Unique Board Will Focus on Veterans' Issues & Events***

#### **For Immediate Release:**

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WHITESTOWN, Ind. – It's something very unique and not often seen in municipal governments. But on August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Whitestown Town Council did something different to honor its local veterans, passing an ordinance creating a new Veterans Committee. (Click here to read [Ordinance 2016-27](#))

The Veterans Committee will serve as an advisory board to the Town Council, identifying additional ways to honor our veterans and increase awareness of veterans' issues. The new board will also work closely with Whitestown American Legion Post 410 to study options for building a permanent memorial to our Whitestown veterans.

"We are most grateful and honored that the Town of Whitestown has chosen to recognize our veterans and partner with them in this unique way." Said Ron Domres, who serves on the Executive Committee of Whitestown American Legion Post 410. "It means a lot to our local Vets that their sacrifices were appreciated, their opinions are valued, and their voices will be heard by our Town leaders."

Domres served in Vietnam and his brother was a Korean War Veteran. "My brother made the Inchon Landing and survived the Chosin Reservoir Campaign. When these Veterans returned home there weren't any parades, bands, or speeches to welcome them, nor was there any help from the VA for any PTSD. When our Viet Nam Veterans returned home we were demonstrated against as if we personally did something wrong. One of our local decorated Combat Veterans upon arriving at the Airport was demonstrated against and spit upon. You can imagine the impact it made on us, which we have carried the rest of our lives." Explained Domres. "So we are so happy to see America is appreciating our current active military and veteran men and women of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. I cannot put into words how grateful we are for this Town's recognition and respect."

Town Council President Eric Miller is a passionate supporter of our veterans, as is Council Member Kevin Russell, who is a disabled U.S. Army veteran himself. "This board will be made up of veterans, current service members and their spouses and children. It's a terrific way to give those who understand veterans' issues best a meaningful voice in their local government." Said Councilman Russell.

“We thank Town Council President Eric Miller for his leadership in passing this important ordinance.” Added Council Member Clinton Bohm.

“Creating this committee was extremely important to me because my hero, my Grandpa Freeman, selflessly and honorably served our great country in the United States Navy.” Said Town Council President Miller. “The importance that my Grandpa placed on service to our country taught me to strongly believe in a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, ‘A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards.’ This committee will help to ensure that our veterans are recognized appropriately for the great sacrifices that they have made and it will help to ensure that our veterans are given a square deal or greater in regards to veterans issues and needs. I am looking forward to seeing the town work closely with American Legion Post 410 to organize ceremonies to honor our veterans.”

Earlier this summer, Town Council President Miller further honored our local veterans by renaming the road leading to Town Hall ‘Veterans Drive’. Many members of the Whitestown American Legion Post were in attendance for that road renaming ceremony. “The dedication brought tears to many of our eyes, not for us but for our brothers that made the ultimate sacrifice, our heroes.” Said Domres.

The ordinance creating the Veterans Committee passed unanimously. To apply for a seat on the new board, email Town Council President Eric Miller at: [emiller@whitestown.in.gov](mailto:emiller@whitestown.in.gov)

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